

A

REVIEW

OF THE

Affairs of *FRANCE*:

With Observations on TRANSACTIONS at Home.

Thursday, September 20. 1705

I Have, according to my Capacity, and the Shortness of the Space these Papers allow, Determin'd in my last, the Case of the Pretenders to the Church of *England*: My Design in it is plain, for I have no Secret ones; the Meaning is with the Text, to Try them who say they are Apostles, and are not to find them *Lyars*.

The Vain Pretences these People make, and the shew of Defending the Church of *England*, must be Effectually Exposed, when it is manifest, the People pretending, really do not mean the same Church of *England* which this Nation now Espouses, and on which the present Establishment is Founded, Embrac'd by the Queen, Protected by the Law, and Espoused, as to Interest, by the Universal Consent of Parties and Perswasions; those only Excepted, who are for *French Popery*, or *French Power*.

The Preposterous Whymfies of those who would Scare the People of this Nation with

the Vain Suspitions and Chimera's of Plots against the Church, appear by this to be formed on purpose to Conceal real Plots against the Church of *England*.

These will appear, if we Consider,

1. They continually Exclaim against the Encroachments of *Dissenters*, the Boldness and Liberty of their Fellow *Protestants*, but never Complain of the Encroachments of *Papish* Interests and Councils.

2. They are mightily afraid of a *Whiggish* Court, as they call it, Overthrowing the Church; but not at all Concern'd at a Pretender to the Crown, assisted by *French* Power, Encroaching upon us all.

3. They rail at all Proposals of Peace, and yet pretend the Publick Good; cry out against our Friends, and yet Herd with our Enemies.

4. Rail at the Queen, the Bishops, and the Moderate Clergy, and yet Talk of the Church of *England*.

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In this Case, I would ask the following Questions.

" You had the Government in your own Hands, almost Two Years ; Pray, *What did you ever do for the Church ?*

" The Present Ministry has been Entrusted ed now near the same time ; Pray, *What have they done against it ?*

1. Your Ministry lasted near two Years, the Queen Trusted and Tried you, Her Majesty Depending upon the Honour and Integrity of the Party, and not Doubting, but their Regard to the Church of *England*, and Duty to their Sovereign, would byass them to a True Application of Healing Remedies to the State, put her self and the whole Nation into the Hands of a High-Church Ministry ; What was the Consequence ? How *Judab* Vex'd *Ephraim* ; and *Ephraim*, by Consequence, was brought to Envy *Judab* ? How Liberty was Preserv'd ? How Peace at Home Encourag'd, *Protestant* Allies Succoured, *Camisars* Reliev'd, and those that mov'd for it accepted ? Let the Success of those Affairs speak, and let the Gentlemen Concern'd, give us an Account if they can.

The Broils we were all in at Home, the worse Mischiefs Threatned, the Insulting of Parties, the Breaches upon one another ; the Encouragements of the *Jacobine* Interest and their Favourers, and the strange Encrease of the Nations Enemies, both at Home and Abroad, are Eminent Tokens of the Wondrous Conduct of some Gentlemen, who think themselves Champions for the Church of *England*, whose Politicks, if it were worth while to search for them, would perhaps help to Demonstrate the Existence of a *Non-Entity* ; and were the Old Earl of *Rocheſter* Alive, would bear a Second Poem upon *Noſking*.

Thus far relating to the High-Church Conduct ; as for their Charity to *Dissenters*, and the Healing Spirit they were of, I refer them to a larger Draught of their Temper to be found in a remote Pamphlet, call'd, *The shortest Way with the Dissenters*, where their Earnest is Described in our Jest, their Meaning in our Metaphors, and which they had the Face to Disown in Words, and Justice in Practice.

2. After Her Majesty, for Innumerable

Reasons, thought fit to Disband this Regiment of the Sons of *Febu*, and the Intemperance of a Party, Convinc'd their Sovereign, That either they did not *Intend*, or did not *Understand* her Interest ; they were succeeded by a Set of Men, of whom, and against whom, they would fain say something, if they knew what.

To begin the Clamour early, they first with an Unusual Front, ask the Queen, Why she Turn'd the other out, and Expect Her Majesty should give an Account to them of the Grounds and Reasons by which the Government of her Household is carried on, and why some Servants are Dismiss'd, and others Entertain'd ; reducing Her Majesty to a meaner Condition, than every Citizen's Wife, who is not Examined why she Turns away her Chamber-Maid ? For the Justice would be the same, to ask the Queen, Why Her Majesty Dismisses a Cook, or a Coachman, as a Lord-Chamberlain, or Comptroler of her Household.

The next Storm of Rallery falls upon the the Ministry brought in ; and here I must take the Liberty to ask some Questions.

Not that the Ministers of State have any Occasion of a Vindication, but never was a Government thus Treated——'Twas a Saying of a Man of Wit in *England*, who heard the Judgment of Queen *Elizabeth* Reflect on, and all her Successes attributed to the Wisdom of her Counsellors ; *Ay*, says this Gentleman, *but there are none but Wise Princes, have Wise Counsellors*.

Would any Man ask me the Reason, why the Queen Dismiss'd her former Counsellors ? I should readily Answer, Because Her Majesty was a Wise Queen, and because as such she was resolv'd, according to the General Practice of all that Deserve that Title, to have Wise Counsellors.

And now being to speak something presumptuously of the present Ministry, I am to ask Pardon to make a Challenge to these Gentlemen of *Memorial* Principles, in the Name of the Government and Ministers of State. 'Tis very odd Work, I confess, to have the Publick Ministry Buffoon'd on one Hand, and officiously Defended on the other, and tosd'd about like Shuttlecocks, by the Pen and the Press, now on one side, then

on the other, the most ready way to bring them into Contempt on both sides.

I shall therefore not pretend to Defend the present Ministry; for I see nothing they are accused of. I see them Bullied and Mobbed, indeed, every Day in Print; and in Conversation, the *Curse Causeless* is plentifully bestow'd upon them.

But, Gentlemen High Churchmen, What do you mean by all this? To rail is not to prove; if there be any Neglect of Duty, any Breach of the Law, if any Plot on the Constitution, any Indirect Methods of Government practised by the present Ministry, Why do you not appear? The Law is open, Even against the Queen Her Self; the Ministry are far from being protected; Why do you not form your Accusation? The Parliament is approaching, impeach them, Gentlemen, bring out your mighty Charge; Where are the Bribes, the secret Services, the corresponding with the Nation's Enemies, the blank Passes, the betraying of Councils, the discovering our Designs? Where are the mis-applied Treasures, the amassing private Fortunes, the giving Places and Trusts to our sworn Enemy? Stand forth, and make these things out, Gentlemen, and see if the Queen does not (as Her Majesty did by your Friends, and as I doubt not shall be done to all the Unfaithful Servants of such a Mistress) Dismiss them and Turn them out.

It cannot be, Gentlemen, but where there is so much Clamour, there must be *some Crime*: Sure, there cannot be all this Rallery at the Ministry, and no Matter of Fact; There can never be so much Smoke, and no Fire. Either the present Ministry must be very black, or all this Charge must be very Villainous and Barbarous. Now, pray, Gentlemen, bring this Matter to the Law and Testimony, honest Men may accuse, but Villains only accuse wrongfully, let it appear where the Charge lies: Are all the Ministers of State Traitors, and Thieves, Gentlemen? Are they Betrayers of the Queen, and pullers down of the Church? and have none of you Honesty enough, nor Courage enough, to face them? Have none of you Concerns enough for the Queen, and the Church, to bring these Gentlemen to Ju-

stice? — Impeach them, a God's Mame, and do it quickly, before they fly, and run away; for sure they can never stand it, if half what you say be true.

This will be the way to bring this Matter to an Issue, and we shall soon see where the Grievance lies; *—s there are, that's without doubt*; by this bravely standing to your Tackle, we shall see who they are; the Nation must one way or other, be Undeceived.

Did ever Nation or Government suffer the Principal Members of the State to be Bullied and Challeng'd, Accused and Traduc'd, and the Accusers not Dare to shew their Faces to their Charge? The Ministry stand fair, they are ready to Answer, for every Man that keeps his Post must be so. Where are the Accusers? Where is your Charge? The Parliament of England has always been the Scourge and Terror of Favourites, have made them Disgorge their Ill-gotten Treasures, and make Satisfaction for their Oppressions; If these Persons are Guilty, why do you not form your Charge, and bring Impeachments against them? Which being prosecuted with due Proof of Fact, cannot fail to Crush them all.

But, Gentlemen, if none of these Things are done; if you Baulk your own Cause; if you shrink back, and dare not hold your Faces to your Charge; the Nation must of Course conclude you are false Accusers, Malicious Slanderers, a meer Party of Men of Malice, fill'd with Bvvy and Evil speaking; your Accusation's a Rapsody of *Billingsgate* Nonsense and Rage, which when you are call'd upon to make good, you have nothing to say to.

A Blessed Conclusion upon you, much for the Honour and Glory of High Church! much for the Encouragement of Honest Men to join with you!

Would any Nation in the World bear to have the Ministers of State Traduced, the Queens Great Officers Charged as Enemies of the Church, and no stated Accusation, no Legal Charge brought against them? Favourites of Princes have often indeed been Malign'd by the People, but then they have had something to say against them; there-
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has been a Charge brought, and generally in Parliament; we see no Charge here, nor any Probability of it, unless it be a Charge of such a Nature, as no Parliament ever had brought before them, and such a Charge as no Man ever yet appear'd to, any more than they will now.

All the Charge we can hear of, against the Principal Persons now aim'd at, is, as formerly hinted, That the Duke of *Marlborough* beats the *French*, the Lord Treasurer Maintains the Credit of the Exchequer, that our Secretaries of State have better Intelligence, that our Fleet and Naval Expeditions are better Managed than ever they were before.

If the Gentlemen have any thing to say to these Gentlemen, the Parliament is at hand, let them come and Appear; let them bring their *Memorial*, and Justify the Contents of it there, and make good the Charge against the Ministers of State, and the Law must Punish, if the Guilt be made out; if not, 'tis a Horrible and most Barbarous Insult of the Government, to Rail, and prove nothing; to Accuse in Covert, and not Dare to Impeach by Law.

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